

## Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-04 SCCT-01 OPR-01 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 NIC-01 CU-02

DRC-01 /068 W

----- 007011

R 160845Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7181

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 9832

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PK, AF

SUBJECT: SPATE OF BOMBINGS IN NORTHERN PAKISTAN

SUMMARY: PRESS REPORTS THAT NEARLY TWO DOZEN BOMB EXPLOSIONS HAVE SHAKEN NORTHERN PAKISTANI CITIES SINCE OCTOBER 10. ONE BOMB, IN MARDAN, NWFP, KILLED TWO AND INJURED 24. THAT BOMBERS SEEM INTENT ON CAUSING DEATH OR INJURY IS EVIDENCED BY LOCATION OF MANY OF BOMBS. HOWEVER, SOME EXPLOSIONS NOT IN PUBLIC PLACES. WHILE ORIGIN OF ALL MATERIAL USED IN BOMBS NOT KNOWN, SOME HAND GRENADES, SOME PLASTIC EXPLOSIVE APPARENTLY USED. PESHAWAR POLICE HAVE ARRESTED FOUR MEN IN CONNECTION WITH BOMBINGS WHO GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PAK TIMES REPORTS ARE NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY (NAP) MEMBERS. TIMES HAS ALLEGED NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY RESPONSIBLE. OTHER INTERPRETATIONS OF WHO RESPONSIBLE ALSO CURRENT. EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT EVIDENCE OF CENTRAL PLANNING DEMONSTRATED COULD INDICATE NAP INVOLVEMENT. END SUMMARY.

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1. PRESS REPORTS OVER PAST FEW DAYS INDICATE THAT

APPROXIMATELY TWO DOZEN BOMB EXPLOSIONS HAVE SHAKEN NORTHERN PAKISTANI CITIES AND TOWNS SINCE OCTOBER 10, INCLUDING TWO IN THE CAPITOL ON THAT DATE. ELEVEN EXPLOSIONS HAVE OCCURRED IN NWFP, MAINLY IN PESHAWAR; ABOUT SEVEN IN LAHORE, TWO IN LYALLPUR, ONE IN KASUR, TWO IN ISLAMABAD AND ONE IN RAWALPINDI.

2. ONLY ONE BOMB TOOK LIVES, THAT WHICH BLASTED A BANK IN MARDAN, NWFP, ON OCTOBER 12, KILLING TWO AND INJURING 24. BOMBS PLANTED IN TWO BUSES IN PESHAWAR ON OCTOBER 10 INJURED FOUR, WHILE THREE WERE BURNED BY BOMB-CAUSED THEATRE FIRE IN ISLAMABAD ON THAT DATE. OCTOBER 12 BOMB AT RAWALPINDI INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL HURT THREE AND IN LAHORE TWO WERE INJURED BY BOMB OCTOBER 14 AT RAILWAY STATION.

3. THAT BOMBERS SEEM INTENT ON CAUSING DEATH OR INJURY EVIDENCED BY LOCATIONS OF MANY OF BOMBS: ONE IN CROWDED BANK, TWO IN PUBLIC BUSES, ONE IN HOTEL LOBBY, ONE IN MOVIE THEATRE GALLERY, ONE AT RAILROAD STATION, ONE IN RESTAURANT. FORTUNATELY, INTERCON HOTEL EMPLOYEE FOUND BOMB IN LOBBY, CARRIED IT OUTSIDE BEFORE IT EXPLODED OR MANY MORE INJURIES MIGHT HAVE OCCURRED. EQUALLY FORTUNATE WAS FACT THAT ISLAMABAD THEATRE GALLERY, WHICH NORMALLY HOLDS HUNDREDS, HAD ONLY FEW PATRONS AT TIME OF EXPLOSION.

4. SOME EXPLOSIONS NOT IN PUBLIC PLACES, AS ONE WHICH DAMAGED GAS TRANSMISSION LINE IN NOWSHERA OCTOBER 12, ANOTHER IN PESHAWAR FLOUR MILL FOLLOWING DAY, OR THOSE IN PESHAWAR RESIDENTIAL AREA AND ON SHOP ROOF OCTOBER 14. MOST NWFP BOMBINGS SEEM TO FOLLOW RECENT PATTERN THERE: APPARENTLY BEING PLANTED FOR EFFECT AND/OR TO CAUSE PROPERTY DAMAGE BUT NOT CAUSE INJURY.

5. WHILE AT THIS TIME, ORIGIN OF ALL MATERIAL USED IN BOMBS NOT KNOWN, SOME EXPLOSIONS IN LAHORE AREA APPARENTLY WERE HAND GRENADES. IN ADDITION, PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES USED IN SEVERAL BOMBS, INCLUDING THOSE IN ISLAMABAD AND RAWALPINDI, ACCORDING TO SEVERAL PRESS ACCOUNTS. IF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS IS TRUE, IT DOES NOT NECESSARILY SUPPORT CHARGES OF FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT AS PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES COULD HAVE BEEN STOLEN FROM PAK MILITARY.

6. PESHAWAR POLICE HAVE ARRESTED FOUR MEN IN CONNECTION WITH BOMB EXPLOSIONS THERE. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PAK TIMES OCTOBER 16 REPORTED THAT MEN, INCLUDING ONE "KABUL TRAINED GANGSTER", BELONGED TO NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY (NAP)

AND OUTLAWED PAKHTOON ZALME (MILITANT PATHAN GROUP).  
EMBASSY NOT AWARE OF ANY OTHER ARRESTS. HOWEVER, POLICE  
AUTHORITIES HAVE INTERROGATED WELL OVER ONE HUNDRED  
PERSONS IN ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI AREA.

7. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS HAS ALLEGED THAT NATIONAL  
AWAMI PARTY (NAP) MEMBERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR BOMBINGS.  
PAK TIMES OCTOBER 14 LEAD EDITORIAL  
CHARGED THAT FORMER NAP SECRETARY GENERAL AJMAL KHATTAK,  
NOW RESIDENT IN KABUL, AND NAP LEADER WALI KHAN ORCHESTRATE  
BOMBINGS. EDITORIAL ALSO CHARGED THAT KHATTAK IS "ACTING  
IN CLOSE CONCERT" WITH SARDAR DAUD ON MATTER. DISCUSSIONS  
WITH OUR CONTACTS HERE AND IN PESHAWAR AND LAHORE SUGGEST  
THAT GENERAL PAK PUBLIC IS BUYING GOVERNMENT LINE.

8. IF NAP NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR BOMBINGS, THEN WHO IS?  
VARIOUS INTERPRETATIONS BEING DISCUSSED HERE INCLUDE:  
GOVERNMENT AGENTS SEEKING TO DISCREDIT NAP; DISGRUNTLED  
AHMADIYA SECTMEMBERS; DISSIDENT LEFTIST MEMBERS OF  
RULING PEOPLES' PARTY; AND STUDENTS OF VARIOUS  
PERSUASIONS, SUCH AS UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT, BALUCH OR  
EVEN UNAFFILIATED STUDENTS.

9. WHILE IT POSSIBLE THAT EXPLOSIONS NOT ALL OF SAME  
ORIGIN, AND THAT SEVERAL GROUPS COULD EACH HAVE PIECE  
OF ACTION, TIMING, TYPE OF TARGETS AND LOCATIONS OF  
RECENT SPATE STRONGLY SUGGESTS TO US CENTRAL PLANNING  
AND ORGANIZATIONS VERY POSSIBLY INVOLVING EITHER NAP  
LEADERSHIP OR SUBORDINATE MEMBERS OF PARTY.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 16 OCT 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, PK, AF  
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